

Elin Jones MS

Llywydd and Chair of the Business Committee

18 September 2020

National Development Framework (NDF)

Dear Llywydd,

I wrote to the Business Committee earlier this year in relation to the statutory scrutiny process for the National Development Framework (NDF).

My letter referred to recommendations made by the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee that a temporary Standing Order should be introduced to facilitate the statutory scrutiny process. You replied that the Business Committee was content that the Trefnydd had agreed that the Committee's recommendations would be met without the need for a temporary Standing Order.

On 12 February 2020 the Trefnydd wrote to Business Managers, saying that she would: "Table an amendable motion in government-time to provide an opportunity for the Senedd to express its views on (but not approve) the draft National Development Framework. The debate will take place during the Senedd's 60-day consideration period so the government can reflect on the Senedd's decision and the recommendation of the Committee(s) in a timely manner."

The NDF is yet to be laid in the Senedd and, therefore, the 60-day statutory scrutiny period has not been triggered. However, I note that the Welsh Government has scheduled a debate on the NDF on 29 September. It will not be possible for the work of committees, including any consultation with stakeholders, to inform the debate.



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The 60-day period is designated for Senedd scrutiny. It is unclear why the Welsh Government has chosen to schedule an early debate. Whatever the reason, I believe the Business Committee must ensure that this early Plenary debate does not undermine subsequent Senedd scrutiny.

The CCERA Committee plans to undertake scrutiny of the NDF during the 60-day period. It will request a Plenary debate before the end of that period. I hope that the Business Committee will ensure that the Senedd has the opportunity to have a debate on the NDF that is informed by the work undertaken by the Senedd and its members during the statutory scrutiny period.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Hedges". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned on a light-colored background.

Mike Hedges MS

Chair of the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

